

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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AGRICULTURE:CPADGETT (SUBS)

AID-AFR/CWR:LSPEEK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

UNCLAS STATE 221486

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IV, OVIP, EAGR

SUBJ: GOIC REQUEST FOR AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

LAGOS PASS TO MAJOR CEREALS TEAM, NIAMEY FOR ADO

1. DURING STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN EARLY OCTOBER, IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY MET WITH SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ. HOUPHOUET ASKED WHETHER THE US MIGHT ASSIST GOIC IN INCREASING CORN PRODUCTION. HOUPHOUET ALSO STATED THAT GOIC WISHED TO UNDERTAKE SOYBEAN PRODUCTION, AND ASKED WHETHER US COULD ASSIST WITH THAT. SECRETARY BUTZ AGREED TO HELP ON BOTH COUNTS, AND A SIGNED COPY OF THE FOLLOWING LETTER IS BEING FORWARDED BY POUCH. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

SINCE MEETING WITH YOU ON OCTOBER 10, 1973, MY STAFF HAS INVESTIGATED HOW WE MIGHT BEST RESPOND TO YOUR REQUEST FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSISTANCE IN INCREASING SOYBEAN AND CORN PRODUCTION IN

YOUR COUNTRY.

PRESENTLY, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARE COOPERATING WITH SEVERAL WEST AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS THROUGH THE AUSPICES OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH COMMISSION IN LAGOS IN A MAJOR CEREALS RESEARCH PROGRAM, LOCATED AT

SAMARU, NIGERIA. THEIR EFFORTS ARE DIRECTED TOWARD INCREASING THE PRODUCTIVITY OF CORN, SORGHUM, AND MILLET IN THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES. AS A BEGINNING TOWARD SATISFYING YOUR REQUEST, MEMBERS OF THIS TEAM ARE AVAILABLE TO VISIT YOUR COUNTRY. DURING THIS VISIT THEY CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR OFFICIALS STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN TO BRING ABOUT INCREASED CORN AND SOYBEAN PRODUCTION.

MAY I SUGGEST THAT IF THIS PLAN MEETS WITH YOUR APPROVAL THAT AN OFFICIAL REQUEST BE MADE DIRECTLY TO OUR AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, MR. JOHN F. ROOT, IN ABIDJAN SO THAT HE CAN CONVEY YOUR REQUEST TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN LAGOS FOR THE APPROPRIATE AID AND USDA OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH THE RESEARCH PROJECT THERE. THEY WILL THEN RESPOND INDICATING THE POSSIBLE TIMING OF A SHORT VISIT TO THE IVORY COAST BY THE RESEARCH TEAM.

I RECALL ALSO THAT YOU WISH TO SEND YOUR MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TO THE UNITED STATES NEXT SPRING TO LOOK INTO THESE MATTERS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING HIM. AS THE TIME APPROACHES, PLEASE KEEP ME INFORMED OF HIS TRAVEL PLANS SO THAT WE CAN SET UP APPROPRIATE MEETINGS.

IT WAS A PLEASURE TO MEET AND VISIT WITH YOU IN WASHINGTON. SINCERELY, EARL L. BUTZ, SECRETARY. END TEXT.

2. EMBASSY ABIDJAN SHOULD PROCEED AS INDICATED IN TEXT OF LETTER. RUSH

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